

REMARKS

Claim 29 has been amended to make absolutely clear that the locking elements along the common joint either increase entirely along the locking joint or decrease entirely along the locking joint in a linear manner.

It is respectfully urged that this amendment be entered as provided for in 37 C.F.R. § 41.33. The "good and sufficient reasons why the amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented" are that the undersigned attorney failed to consider that claim 29 was an independent claim. The language added to claim 29 is identical or substantially identical to language in claim 26 and dependent claim 30 which has now been cancelled. Claim 36 has also been cancelled. Claim 51 is now dependent on claim 29.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is urged this case is now in better form for appeal. Please enter the amendments for purposes of appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By



David C. Hanson, Reg. No. 23024
Attorney for Applicant
436 Seventh Avenue
700 Koppers Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: (412) 471-8815
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com